

ANTISEPTICS, DISINFECTANTS, FUNGICIDES, AND CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL STERILIZATION. Edited by George F. Reddish, Ph.D., Sc.D. (Hon.), St. Louis College of Pharmacy and Allied Sciences. Lea & Febiger, Philadelphia, 1954. 841 pages, 71 illustrations, \$15.00.

Faced with a volume of something over 800 pages on the subject of discouraging or killing germs—exclusive of the therapeutic antimicrobial agents—this reviewer felt at first daunted by the prospect of a long, dry task. Happily, this proved not to be the case, for although the book cannot be recommended for a cozy evening's reading it turns out to be a remarkably interesting compilation of information and viewpoints assembled by the editor and 30 contributors. The 35 chapters converge upon the general subject of disinfection from various angles, and where overlapping occurs the reader benefits by the different pathways leading into the information which he desires. The subject of disinfection is first discussed in its general and historical aspects, including various methods of testing the efficacy of substances and the nature of bacterial resistance. A number of chapters deal with single substances or groups of substances and their mechanisms of action as well as practical uses. Other chapters approach the subject from the standpoint of particular groups of infectious agents and the methods applicable to them, as for example is the case in Chapter 18 where viricidal agents are dealt with. Still other chapters deal with a particular purpose and how it may be met, as in a chapter dealing with surgical antiseptics, and another with chemical disinfection of surgical instruments. Thus, the chapter on iodine pretty thoroughly goes into the actions and uses of this substance in its various forms, while another chapter which may be mostly concerned with surgical antiseptics includes iodine compounds again, but more pointedly discussed with reference to a particular kind of usefulness. One section of the book deals with chemical and physical sterilization methods including heat, gaseous sterilization, and the use of ionizing radiations. A final chapter takes up pasteurization.

A book of this kind is obviously not intended for the general medical reader. There may be some, however, such as surgeons especially interested in or responsible for problems of antiseptics, who will find clarifying answers to many of their questions here, and certainly the book should be available in every hospital. Aside from this use, it should prove to be a valuable reference book for those concerned with problems of public health and sanitation and for bacteriologists. Needless to say, it will be very helpful also to those concerned with food preservation and with various industrial processes in which microbial life plays a part.

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AUDITORY DISORDERS IN CHILDREN—A Manual for Differential Diagnosis. Helmer R. Myklehurst, Professor of Audiology, Professor of Otolaryngology, Northwestern University, Grune & Stratton, New York, 1954. 367 pages, \$6.00.

The book presents a detailed one-year study of 228 children between the ages of six months and seven years who had been referred to the Children's Center for auditory disorders at the Northwestern University Medical School. Most of them had been diagnosed as deaf and all had very little speech; however, 55 per cent of the patients were found to have normal hearing, the auditory disorders being caused by emotional disturbances, aphasia, or mental deficiencies.

The book is divided into five parts with several chapters in each part. At the close of each chapter is an excellent summary.

The first part deals with the problem in general, i.e., language development in children, and the part played by the medical as well as the lay specialists in assisting in this development.

The second part emphasizes the importance of obtaining a painstaking history and performing careful clinical examination, which with proper interpretation are of utmost value in making a diagnosis.

Part three describes behavior, symptomatology in auditory disorders due to peripheral deafness, aphasia, psychic deafness and mental deficiency.

Part four completely details the examination methods and procedures with the use of tests, the auditory capacity and the psychological examination.

The last part presents case histories, illustrating each condition together with recommended therapy.

The book is well written and gives definite aid to the practitioner in making a diagnosis and treating the various forms of auditory failure.

It is well worth a place in the library of the otolaryngologist, the pediatrician, the neurologist, the psychologist and the educator.

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ANTIBIOTICS—2nd Edition. Robertson Pratt, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacognosy and Plant Physiology, and Jean Dufrenoy, D.Sci. (Paris), Research Associate in Antibiotics, both from the University of California College of Pharmacy. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1953. 398 pages, \$7.50.

The volume contains considerable information of real interest to every student of antibiotics which is not available in treatises with a more clinical flavor. The industrial, agricultural, veterinary and broader economic aspects are featured. Neither author is a physician, hence they have wisely minimized clinical discussions. However, it would have been better if medical problems had not been discussed at all because some therapeutic methods described were abandoned long ago. The bibliographies are not designed to be comprehensive but do not accomplish the stated aim of providing a key to the literature, at least in the field of medical therapy. The book is recommended as a source of interesting background material concerning laboratory and industrial aspects of antibiotics but it is not recommended as a guide to the physician or medical student.

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DISORDERS OF THE BLOOD—Diagnosis, Pathology, Treatment, Technique—7th Ed. Sir Lionel E. H. Whitby, C.V.O., M.C., M.A., M.D. (Cantab.), F.R.C.B. (Lond.), D.P.H., Regius Professor of Physics in the University of Cambridge; and C. J. C. Britton, M.D. (New Zealand), D.P.H., Physician and Hematologist to the Prince of Wales Hospital. 856 pages, \$9.50.

This volume has undergone seven editions since it was first published in 1935 and is now brought up to date to the middle of 1953. The chapter on the hemorrhagic diseases is excellent with a section even on the recently described Christmas disease (PTC deficiency) and methods for the differentiation of hemophilia from the hemophiloid disorders. Discussions of newer chemotherapeutic agents such as the steroids, TEM and Myleran are included but 6-mercaptopurine is not mentioned. The various hemoglobins are considered but a typographical error might be responsible for the statement that it seems *likely* that hemoglobin C is the abnormal hemoglobin which causes Mediterranean anemia.

This is primarily a reference volume but is concise and readable in the manner peculiar to much of the British medical literature. This book presents current British hematologic thought and is one of the best hematologic texts available. It is recommended for the medical student as well as the practitioner and specialist interested in the field of hematology.